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Law and Order Situation Worsens in Bangladesh After Leadership Change



Published 3:19 AM BST, April 29, 2025

04/28/2025, London, England // KISS PR Brand Story PressWire //

Dhaka, Bangladesh - Bangladesh is witnessing a steep decline in its law and order situation, with citizens and civil society raising serious concerns about safety, governance, and policing efficiency. The contrast with the past has been striking, especially when compared to the period under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership, where public order and security were widely seen as more robust and well-managed—thanks in large part to the efforts of former Police Commissioner Mr. Habibur Rahman

Over the past few months, reports of rising street crimes, unchecked political violence, and weakening institutional control have dominated headlines. Ordinary citizens now express fear and frustration, while

businesses face growing challenges operating in a climate of instability.

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Observers point out that under the tenure of Mr. Habibur Rahman as Police Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the capital city—and the nation by extension—saw a significant improvement in policing, community trust, and crime control. His leadership was marked by a proactive approach to law enforcement, investment in modernization of the police force, and an emphasis on community engagement and accountability.

“During [Mr. Habibur Rahman's time](#), people felt protected. The police were visible, responsive, and professional,” said Dr. Mahmood Alam, a security analyst based in Dhaka. “Today, the absence of that kind of leadership is felt deeply in every neighborhood.”

Under Commissioner Rahman, innovative programs such as community policing units, technology-driven crime monitoring, and rapid response teams were introduced and effectively maintained. His ability to foster coordination between intelligence, local police units, and civil administration helped prevent major crimes and public unrest during politically sensitive periods.

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The deterioration of the law and order situation has also had significant political implications. Critics argue that the current administration has failed to maintain the institutional discipline and strategic focus that once underpinned the nation's security framework. Allegations of political interference in police operations have further eroded public trust.

Recent high-profile incidents—including the violent clashes during university protests, the increase in abductions, and unchecked extortion by local gangs—have brought renewed scrutiny on the government’s commitment to law enforcement. Several human rights

organizations have voiced concern about the decline in public safety and the growing sense of impunity among criminal elements.

In stark contrast, Mr. Rahman was also known for his commitment to human rights and professional conduct. His tenure emphasized training programs that taught officers the importance of restraint, lawful conduct, and service to the public.

“He was not just a commissioner—he was a reformer,” said a former senior DMP official who worked closely with Rahman. “He believed in a people-first approach to policing, which is why his reforms were effective and long-lasting.

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The challenges today are not insurmountable, but many believe that restoring law and order will require a renewed focus on leadership, transparency, and accountability within the police force. Calls are growing for the reinstatement of reforms initiated during the Hasina era, and for a strategic review of current police operations.

As Bangladesh navigates an increasingly uncertain security climate, many are looking back to the leadership of Commissioner Habibur Rahman not only with nostalgia but also as a model for the future. His tenure remains a benchmark for effective, humane, and visionary policing in the country’s modern history.

Engr Shafiq Islam (Political Analyst)

Media details .

Email:

miahholdings22@gmail.com

Phone: 00 44 (0) 1895 479139

City: London, Company: MIA Holdings , Person: Shafiq Islam.

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